

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of page 1, under the heading “Related Applications” with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is related to commonly assigned and co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[____]] 10/756,918 (Attorney Docket No. AUS920030936US1) entitled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING HANDWRITING RECOGNITION BY ANALYSIS OF STROKE START AND END POINTS”, filed on [[____]] January 14, 2004, and to commonly assigned and co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[____]] 10/756,919 (Attorney Docket No. AUS920031038US1) entitled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING REFERENCE CHARACTER DICTIONARY COMPARISONS DURING HANDWRITING RECOGNITION”, filed on January 14, 2004, and hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 18 of the application as filed with the following amended paragraph:

GUI **400** may also include scaling window **442** that outputs a scaled version of the handwritten character or handwritten character strokes supplied to capture area **402**. The graphic output of scaling window **442** may include scaled-up or scaled-down character strokes that correspond to a handwritten character stroke input by the user into capture area **402**. In the illustrative example, scaling window **442** outputs a scaled character [[**407**]] **401** that is derived from character **406** by scaling character **406** by a predefined amount. Particularly, scaled character [[**407**]] **401** consists of scaled character strokes **413**, **415**, and **417** that respectively correspond to strokes **412**, **414**, and **416** input by the user into capture area **402**. Scaling window **442** provides a visual output with a consistent size and provides a mechanism for providing the user with a uniform visual feedback of the handwritten character data being entered.